SWORD ART ONLINE

ソードアート・オンライン

フェアリィ・ダンス

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前回までのあらすじ

シルフの少女・リーファの窮地を救ったキリト。アスナらしき人影が目撃された《世界樹》を目指し、キリトはリーファと行動することに。だが彼女の正体はキリトのリアルの妹、直葉だった――!!

仮想世界と現実で揺れる直葉の心は!?

I HATED VRMMOS FOR STEALING MY BROTHER AWAY FROM ME.

WHAT WAS THE TRUTH BEHIND THE WORLD MY BROTHER LOVED SO MUCH?
BUT ONE YEAR AFTER THE INCIDENT, A CERTAIN FEELING SPROUTED IN MY HEART:

I WANTED TO BETTER UNDERSTAND MY BROTHER.

AND SO I FELT

I HAD TO SEE HIS WORLD WITH MY VERY OWN EYES.

LEAFA-CHAN!

Didn't I already reply to his email?

.....Sigurd's group is going to go hunting again this afternoon.

I TOLD YOU NOT TO CALL ME THAT AT SCHOOL,

NAGATA-KUN.

I—I'm sorry, Kirigaya-san.

Huh?

Don't tell me that you and that Spriggan from yesterday are.....?

SORRY, BUT I WON'T BE ABLE TO JOIN FOR A WHILE.

ARUN?!

The neutral city at the base of the World Tree?!

YEAH, PRETTY MUCH.

I'M GOING TO BE HIS GUIDE.

AT LEAST UNTIL ARUN.

B—but!

.....ANYWAYS, THAT'S HOW IT'S GOING TO BE, SO GIVE MY REGARDS TO SIGURD.

HOW MANY TIMES DO YOU THINK WE'D BE WIPED OUT IF I WENT WITH YOU?!

.....But when I suggested before that we go to Arun, you instantly declined.....

I FIRST WENT TO THE VIRTUAL WORLD SO THAT I COULD BE CLOSER TO MY BROTHER.

WE'LL TALK MORE OVER *THERE.*

Kirigaya-san, are you planning to leave the party?!

....HUH?

BIG BRO-THER.

I'M HOME.

BUT NOW, I LOVE THE WORLD OF ALO.

IS HE TAKING A NAP?

AND ALSO,

TO FLY FREELY THROUGH THE SKY.

EVEN NOW, I STILL REMEMBER THE FEELING.

THE MORE I THINK OF HIM,

THE FASTER MY HEART BEATS.

I'M SO STUPID!

AREN'T I JUST GOING TO GUIDE HIM?

ポスン

INHALE

AMUSPHERE

LINK START!!

THOSE CLOTHES LOOK GOOD ON YOU.

BUT CAN YOU EVEN SWING THAT SWORD?

I CAN.

OH, KIRITO-KUN, YOU WENT SHOPPING?

Munch Munch

I'D LIKE TO CONTINUE OUR EARLIER CONVERSATION.

ABOUT IF YOU BECAME INCAPABLE OF FIGHTING, RIGHT?

WHEN YOUR HP REACHES 0, YOU'LL LEAVE BEHIND A SMALL FLAME.

YOU CAN BE REVIVED USING MAGIC OR ITEMS UNTIL THIS FLAME, A REMAIN LIGHT, GOES OUT.

The flame of each race comes with a different color.

OTHERWISE, AFTER A MINUTE YOU'LL BE REVIVED IN YOUR RACE'S HOME TERRITORY.

SO THE ONES I DEFEATED YESTERDAY ALSO TURNED INTO THOSE FLAMES?

I didn't notice.

OH, KIRITO-KUN!

LIKE I SAID, THE WORLD TREE'S FAR AWAY. YOU'LL HAVE TO BE CAREFUL TO MAKE SURE YOU'LL SURVIVE DURING THE TRIP.

CAN YOU USE REVIVAL MAGIC, LEAFA?

YOU SHOULD LEARN IT, TOO.

ONLY UNDINES CAN USE HIGH-LEVEL HEALING MAGIC,

BUT I CAN RESTORE HEALTH.

SO CERTAIN MAGICS CAN ONLY BE LEARNED BY CERTAIN RACES, RIGHT?

WHAT DO SPRIGGANS GET?

YOU GET TREASURE HUNTING SPELLS AND ILLU-SION MAGIC. NEITHER OF WHICH CAN BE USEFUL IN COMBAT.

THAT'S WHY SPRIGGAN IS THE LEAST POPULAR RACE.

WHOA, GUESS I SHOULD'VE CHECKED THINGS OUT FIRST, HUH.

DO YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO DO IN THAT TOWER?

WE'RE FLYING LONG DISTANCES, SO WE'LL TAKE OFF FROM THE ROOFTOP AND LET ITS HEIGHT DO SOME OF THE WORK FOR US.

ゴオオオ

LEAVE IT TO ME!

SO I'M COUNTING ON YOU TO GUIDE ME, LEAFA.

MAKES SENSE. I DON'T REALLY KNOW MUCH ABOUT THE LAND AROUND HERE,

THERE'S NO FLAG AT THE SYLPH LORD'S MANOR ....

WHICH MEANS RIGHT NOW, SAKUYA IS...

SAKUYA'S NOT HOME RIGHT NOW, LEAFA.

....SIGURD.

ARE YOU PLANNING ON LEAVING THE PARTY, LEAFA?

MORE OR LESS.

I THOUGHT I'D TAKE IT EASY FOR A WHILE.

HOW SELFISH.

HAVE YOU NOT THOUGHT OF HOW THIS WILL AFFECT THE OTHERS?

YOU'RE ALREADY A WELL-KNOWN PARTY MEMBER.

WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?!

THAT WASN'T WHAT YOU SAID BEFORE!

ONE OF THE CONDITIONS OF ME JOINING YOUR PARTY WAS THAT I COULD LEAVE WHENEVER I WANT

YOU AGREED TO THAT, SIGURD!

... CONDITI-ONS?

IF YOU WERE TO INEXPLICABLY LEAVE MY PARTY TO JOIN ANOTHER, IT'D LEAVE A STAIN ON MY HONOR.

DON'T TRY TO HOIST ONE ON ME NOW.

I DON'T RECALL AGREEING TO SUCH A THING.

YOU'RE FAMOUS, AND CURRENTLY CONSIDERED AS ONE OF THE FIVE STRONGEST SYLPHS.

SINCE YOU'VE WON SO MANY COMBAT TOURNAMENTS.

SIGURD ONLY RECRUITED YOU IN ORDER TO RAISE HIS PARTY'S STATUS.

SIGURD IS A STRONG FIGHTER. MY EQUAL IN STRENGTH AND WIELDS CONSIDERABLE POLITICAL POWER AS WELL.

HE'S JUST TRYING TO PROTECT HIMSELF FROM LOSING FAME.

SO HE'S TRYING TO GAIN STATUS BY MAKING YOU HIS FRIEND... NO, HIS SUBORDINATE.

SAKUYA IS THE CURRENT SYLPH LADY AND THE LEAD PLAYER OF THEIR FACTION.

SIGURD HAS GAINED PROMINENCE AS HER AID.

HE IS AN EXTREMELY ACTIVE PLAYER.

YOU CAN'T OWN A FRIEND.

AND LOCK HER INTO AN EQUIPMENT SLOT.

I SAID, YOU CAN'T TAKE ANOTHER PLAYER LIKE YOU WOULD DO TO YOUR FAVORITE SWORD OR ARMOR

LEAFA, DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE ASSOCIATING WITH HIM?

YOU'RE NOTHING MORE THAN A RENEGADE BANISHED FROM HIS HOME TERRITORY!

... YOU DARE SPEAK TO ME LIKE THAT, YOU PIECE-OF-TRASH SPRIGGAN?

KIRITO-KUN...

DON'T YOU DARE INSULT HIM!

NEW PARTNER!

IS MY

LET'S GO, KIRITO-KUN.

THAT SOUNDS BETTER THAN STAYING WITH YOU.

...IF YOU BETRAY ME HERE, I SWEAR YOU'LL SOON COME TO REGRET IT.

BE SURE TO PRACTICE CRYING ON YOUR HANDS AND KNEES. YOU'LL NEED IT WHEN YOU REALIZE THAT YOU WANT TO RETURN.

I'M SORRY YOU HAD TO BE INVOLVED IN SOMETHING SO PETTY

NO, I'M THE ONE WHO ADDED FUEL TO THE FIRE.

THOUGH I DON'T KNOW IF I EVER WOULD HAVE WORKED UP THE COURAGE ALONE..

I'VE WANTED TO GET OUT OF THERE FOR A WHILE NOW.

...I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR A CHANCE LIKE THAT.

NAH.

YOU SAW HOW HE WAS HE WOULD NEVER LET ME LEAVE QUIETLY.

...BUT BECAUSE OF ME, YOU TWO SPLIT UP OVER A FIGHT.

EVEN THOUGH WE HAVE OUR OWN WINGS.

WHY DO WE SO STRIVE TO TIE EACH OTHER DOWN?

HERE,
MY HEART LONGS
TO CAST AWAY, ALL
THAT BINDS ME
AND FLY AS FAR
AS I CAN

BUT WHERE AM
I FLYING TO?

YOU
READY?

YEAH.

Leafa-
chan!

WELL, HALF OF IT WAS SPUR-OF-THE-MOMENT

WHAT ABOUT YOU?

Of course I want to go with you, but...

RECON!

Leafa, are you really leaving the party?

I've found something a little *interesting*.

So I'm going to stay with Sigurd for now.

—Kirito-san!

.....?

Also just to be clear, she's my—

Gah!

She likes to go in head-first into trouble,

so be careful out there!

THAT'S ENOUGH OUT OF YOU.

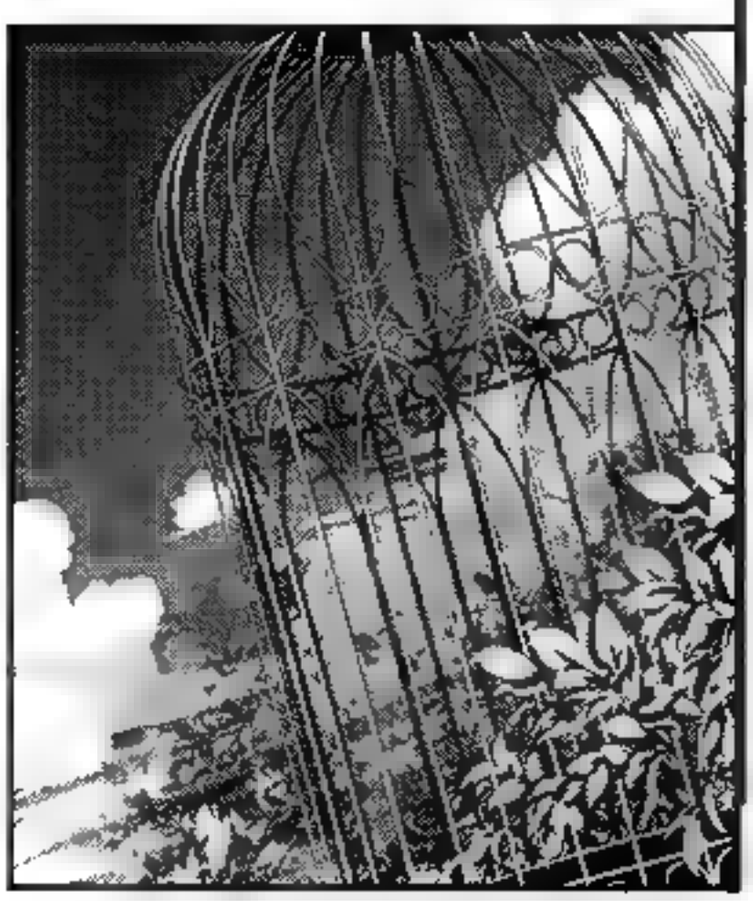
IF ANYTHING HAPPENS, SEND ME A MESSAGE.

SEE YA!

LET'S GET
ALL THE WAY
TO THAT LAKE
BEFORE WE
LOSE
DAWN?

I FEEL KIND OF... MOVED, I GUESS.

I WISH I COULD FLY LIKE THIS FOREVER..



WAIT FOR ME, ASUNA.

I'M ON MY WAY.

I ALMOST WANT TO FREEZE YOU AND HANG YOUR FACE ON MY WALL.

WHENEVER TEARS WELL UP IN YOUR EYES.

YOU LOOK YOUR ABSOLUTE BEST.

TITANIA.

YOU'RE SAYING THAT? AFTER YOU LOCKED ME IN HERE?

HAVE I EVER FORCED MYSELF UPON YOU?

WHY MUST YOU CONTINUE TO ACT SO COLD?

YOU ARE THE SYSTEM ADMINISTRATOR YOU CAN DO WHATEVER YOU WANT

GO AHEAD

OBERON—

OR SHOULD I SAY, SUGOU-SAN?

AND STOP CALLING ME BY THAT WEIRD NAME.

I'M ASUNA.

IN THIS WORLD, I AM OBERON, KING OF THE FAIRIES.

AND YOU ARE TITANIA, MY QUEEN.

WHY WON'T YOU JOIN IN THE FUN?

WE ARE THE RULERS OF ALFHEIM WHOM ALL PLAYERS LOOK UP TO IN ENVY.

IS THAT SO BAD?

MY, MY. WHAT A STRONG WILL YOU HAVE.

BUT YOU SEE, LATELY I'VE WONDERED...

NO MORE

ALL I HAVE TO OFFER YOU IS HATRED AND DISDAIN

WHEN WILL YOU FINALLY OPEN YOUR HEART TO ME AS MY COMPANION?

ギシ…

IF IT MIGHT BE FUN TO TAKE SUCH A STRONG-WILLED PERSON BY FORCE.

ウォ

STOP.
.....TCH.

TITANIA.
YOUR FEELINGS WILL SOON SWOON TO MY WILL,

I MERELY JOKE. I'M SURE YOU WILL SEEK ME YOURSELF, SOON ENOUGH.
BUT IT'S A MATTER OF TIME.

CAN YOU SEE IT?

RIGHT NOW, TENS OF THOUSANDS OF PLAYERS HAVE DIVED INTO THIS WIDE WORLD

AND THEY ARE ENJOYING THE GAME.

BUT YOU SEE.

NONE OF THEM REALIZE

THAT THE FULL DIVE SYSTEM IS MORE THAN JUST A MERE ENTERTAINMENT SYSTEM.

THE NERVE GEAR AND THE AMUSPHERE ARE EACH ABLE TO EXPOSE THE BRAIN'S SENSORY AREA WITH A LIMITED ELECTRIC PULSE.

THIS ENTIRE GAME IS NOTHING BUT A BYPRODUCT.

IN OTHER WORDS, SIGNALS ARE DIRECTED INTO THE BRAIN, WHICH CREATE AN ILLUSORY ENVIRONMENT.

AMUSPHERE

WHAT IF ITS RESTRAINTS WERE REMOVED?

AND,

THOUGHTS,

EMOTIONS,

MEMORY ...

IN THAT CASE,

IT COULD AFFECT OTHER AREAS OF THE BRAIN BESIDES THE SENSORY REGION.. FOR INSTANCE:

EVERY SINGLE REGION COULD BE CONTROLLED!

THIS RESEARCH CANNOT BE CONDUCTED WITHOUT HUMAN TEST SUBJECTS.

BUT YOU SEE.

THE RESEARCH HAS ALREADY PROCEEDED SIGNIFICANTLY IN CERTAIN COUNTRIES.

HOW COULD YOU DO THAT?

HOWEVER, WE ARE TAMPERING WITH THE BRAIN. ONE CANNOT SIMPLY BEGIN HUMAN EXPERIMENTATION AT WILL.

FOR THE SUBJECT MUST BE ABLE TO EXPLAIN IN WORDS WHAT HE IS THINKING!

THUS, ADVANCES IN THIS AREA HAVE BEEN FEW AND FAR BETWEEN.

PURPOSE-MAKING THE RIGHT AND LEFT BRAIN DIFFERENCES IN UPPER-LEVEL BRAIN FUNCTIONS.

SO ONE REQUIRES A VAST NUMBER OF EXPERIMENTAL SUBJECTS.

IF YOU SAW A CERTAIN PIECE OF NEWS

YOU WOULD BE ABLE TO FIND PLENTY OF TEST SUBJECTS- 10,000 OR THEN!

BUT THEN AGAIN,

THE SAO INCIDENT

KAYABA-SENSEI MAY HAVE BEEN A GENIUS, BUT HE WAS ALSO A FOOL.

HE PREPARED MANY VESSELS, BUT WAS SATISFIED BY MERELY USING THEM TO CREATE HIS GAME.

I WAS NEVER ABLE TO LAY MY HANDS ON THE SAO SERVER ITSELF, BUT AT THE MOMENT THE PLAYERS WERE RELEASED FROM THE GAME,

I MANAGED TO REROUTE A FRACTION OF THEM INTO MY WORLD AND KIDNAP THEM THEREIN. IT WASN'T EVEN HARD!

WHILE THE WORLD OF AINCRAD WAS CRUMBLING AWAY AND BATHED IN BRILLIANT LIGHT,

BACK THEN,

EVEN SO, WE WERE NOT AFRAID

KIRITO AND I WAITED

FOR THE

WE WERE WENT HOME TOGETHER

WE WERE INSTEAD HAPPY THAT WE WERE ABLE TO DISAPPEAR TOGETHER

BUT THEN HIS WARMTH SUDDENLY

WHEN I AWOKE, I FOUND MYSELF COLLAPSED HERE.

OH, I'VE WAITED SO LONG FOR THIS MOMENT!

THE VIRTUAL WORLD SURE IS A WONDERFUL THING.

I WAS NOT ABLE TO GRAB THEM ALL, BUT I DID ACQUIRE SOME THREE HUNDRED TEST SUBJECTS.

I NEVER WOULD HAVE BEEN ABLE TO ACCUMULATE SO MANY IN A REAL-WORLD FACILITY.

I CAN EMBED NEW OBJECTS INTO A PERSON'S MEMORIES,

AND HAVE DEVELOPED MANY TECHNIQUES FOR INDUCING EMOTION.

MY RESEARCH HAS ADVANCED SO FAR IN THE PAST TWO MONTHS!

ふふふ

BUT..

THERE'S NO WAY

MY FATHER WOULD APPROVE SUCH RESEARCH!

I CAN CONTROL THE VERY SOUL!

IT'S TRULY A WONDERFUL THING!!

OF COURSE THAT FOSSIL KNOWS NOTHING.

THIS RESEARCH IS BEING CONDUCTED IN SECRET BY A SMALL TEAM HEADED BY ME.

OTHERWISE, IT WOULDN'T BE A THING.

PRO-
DUCT
...?

I'M SURE THIS WILL FETCH QUITE A HIGH PRICE.

A CERTAIN AMERICAN CORPORATION IS PRACTICALLY DROOLING AS IT WAITS FOR US TO FINISH OUR RESEARCH.

SOON I SHALL BECOME A MEMBER OF THE YUUKI FAMILY, AND BE FURTHERMORE DECLARED THE SUCCESSOR TO RCT ITSELF,

AS YOUR HUSBAND.

AND IT WILL EVENTUALLY BE RCT'S.

.....

I...

BUT THAT'S

SO WOULD IT BE SO BAD IF WE HAD A PRACTICE RUN FOR THAT DAY HERE?

I WILL NEVER LET YOU DO THAT.

SOMEDAY, I WILL RETURN TO THE REAL WORLD AND REVEAL ALL THAT YOU ARE!

...MY, MY.

DO YOU STILL NOT UNDERSTAND ?

I ONLY TOLD YOU ABOUT MY EXPERI-MENTS

BECAUSE YOU WILL SOON *FORGET EVERYTHING.*

ALL THAT WILL REMAIN IN YOU IS YOUR LOVE FOR—

I DO NOT WISH TO INVOLVE YOUR BRAIN IN SUCH EARLY EXPERIMENTS.

BUT OF COURSE,

...AND PLEASE REALIZE YOU WILL SOON COME TO LOVE AND OBEY ME UNCONDITIONALLY.

TITANIA.

I PRAY YOU WILL BE MORE SUBMISSIVE WHEN WE MEET AGAIN.

PLEASE.

カタ…

……
PLEASE.

HURRY...
HURRY.

KIRITO-KUN.

アスナのもとに
急げキリト!!

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